

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1.-5. Canceled

6. (new) Apparatus for coupling an ultrasound measuring head to a conduit wall for measuring flow of a fluid through the conduit, comprising

a coupling plate having respective extremities for contacting a surface of said wall and the measuring head, respectively, thereby to couple the measuring head to the conduit without contact between the measuring head and the conduit, wherein

the coupling plate is so configured that isotherms of temperature profiles of said wall surface are substantially parallel to length of the conduit and, in an area of the plate adjacent the measuring head, are substantially perpendicular to a path of an acoustic beam generated by the measuring head.

7. (new) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the coupling plate is substantially comprised of two substantially rectangular areas bounded by three orthogonal edges of the plate, one of said orthogonal edges comprises the plate

extremity for contacting said wall surface and areas of the plate remote from said one edge are for not contacting said wall surface.

8. (new) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said two substantially rectangular areas are located so as to be offset from each other relative to the length of the conduit.

9. (new) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the plate comprises an area interconnecting the two substantially rectangular areas and forming, together with each of said substantially rectangular areas, a substantially trapezoidal area.

10. (new) Apparatus according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein thickness of the coupling plate is so selected that temperature of the plate is substantially the same at all plate depths.

11. (new) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein thickness of the plate is substantially less than width and height of the plate.

12. (new) Apparatus comprising
said coupling plate of claim 6,
an ultrasound measuring head, and

a conduit for conducting therethrough a fluid and through a wall of said conduit flow of the fluid is to be measured by the ultrasound measuring head, wherein respective extremities of said coupling plate contact said wall of the conduit and the coupling head, respectively, whereby the measuring head is coupled to the conduit without contact between the measuring head and the conduit.

13. (new) Apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the coupling plate is substantially comprised of two substantially rectangular areas bounded by three orthogonal edges of the plate, one of said orthogonal edges comprises the plate extremity for contacting said wall surfaces, areas of the plate remote from said one edge are for contacting said wall surfaces.

14. (new) Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said two substantially rectangular areas are located so as to be offset from each other relative to the length of the conduit.

15. (new) Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the plate comprises an area interconnecting the two substantially rectangular areas and forming, together with each of said substantially rectangular areas, a substantially trapezoidal area.

16. (new) Apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein thickness of the coupling plate is so selected that temperature of the plate is substantially the same at all plate depths.

17. (new) Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein thickness of the plate is substantially less than width and height of the plate.